

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A hydrodynamic torque transmitting device, comprising:
 - an input side front cover;
 - an impeller being coupled to the front cover to form a fluid chamber therewith;
 - a turbine having a turbine hub, and a vane portion disposed inside the fluid chamber and opposite the impeller; and
 - a piston having a disk-shaped main body, a frictional coupling portion disposed on an outer peripheral portion of the main body ~~that is~~ being configured to couple ~~capable of~~ frictionally ~~coupling~~ with the front cover, and a support portion ~~that supports~~ being configured to support the turbine in the axial direction when the piston moves toward the front cover, the support portion having a flat surface axially contacting the turbine and a cylindrical portion extending axially from an inner peripheral edge of the piston, the flat surface and the cylindrical portion being arranged to abut each other, the piston being disposed ~~so as~~ to divide a space between the front cover and the turbine into a front chamber on a front cover side and a rear chamber on a turbine side and being configured to move ~~capable of moving~~ toward and away from the front cover by ~~means of~~ a pressure differential created by fluid between the front chamber and rear chamber,[[;]]
- ~~wherein~~ the turbine hub and the front cover respectively ~~include~~ including opposing portions ~~that are~~ being mutually opposed to each other across a space in an axial direction,[[;]] and

the opposing portions being configured to maintain a gap in the axial direction is
~~maintained between the opposing portions therebetween so that to prevent~~ a load from the
turbine ~~will not be~~ being applied to the front cover when the piston moves to a position
closest to the front cover.

2. (Currently Amended) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device
according to claim 1, wherein[[:]]

the opposing portions are directly opposite each other in the axial direction₁[[:]] and
the axial distance between the opposing portions is longer than the axial distance
between the frictional coupling portion and the front cover when the piston moves to a
position furthest from the front cover.

3. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to
claim 1, wherein the support portion of the piston is an annular portion having a constant
radial width.

4. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to
claim 3, wherein the radial width of the support portion of the piston is larger than a plate
thickness of the piston.

5. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to
claim 4, wherein the radial width of the support portion of the piston is two or more times
larger than the plate thickness of the piston.

6. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein the turbine side of the support portion of the piston has a flat surface that extends perpendicular to the rotation axis.

7. (Currently Amended) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein

the piston includes a cylindrical portion that extends from an inner peripheral edge of the main body of the piston toward the front cover, and

the inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical portion is supported on an outer peripheral surface of the turbine hub such that the cylindrical portion ~~can move~~ is movable in a rotational direction and the axial direction.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to ~~claim 7~~, comprising:

an input side front cover;

an impeller being coupled to the front cover to form a fluid chamber therewith;

a turbine having a turbine hub, and a vane portion disposed inside the fluid chamber and opposite the impeller; and

a piston having a disk-shaped main body, a frictional coupling portion disposed on an outer peripheral portion of the main body being configured to couple frictionally with the front cover, and a support portion being configured to support the turbine in the axial direction when the piston moves toward the front cover, the piston being disposed to divide a space between the front cover and the turbine into a front chamber on a front cover side and a rear chamber on a turbine side and being configured to move toward and away from the front

cover by a pressure differential created by fluid between the front chamber and rear chamber,
the piston including a cylindrical portion extending from an inner peripheral edge of the main
body of the piston toward the front cover, the inner peripheral surface of the cylindrical
portion being supported on an outer peripheral surface of the turbine hub, the cylindrical
portion being movable in a rotational direction and the axial direction, wherein the axial
position of the axial end of the cylindrical portion matches matching an the axial engine side
surface of the turbine hub

the turbine hub and the front cover respectively including opposing portions being
mutually opposed to each other across a space in an axial direction, and

the opposing portions being configured to maintain a gap in the axial direction
therebetween to prevent a load from the turbine being applied to the front cover when the
piston moves to a position closest to the front cover.

9. (Original) The hydrodynamic torque transmitting device according to claim 7, wherein a portion of the turbine hub that is in contact with the cylindrical portion includes a seal member that seals an inner peripheral portion between the front chamber and the rear chamber.